

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-9 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended. No claims have been newly added or canceled. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9 will remain pending.

In the pending Office Action, claims 1-5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. (JP 11003682; hereafter "Yamada") in view of Yasuhara et al. (JP 11162329; hereafter "Yasuhara") and further in view of Ito et al. (JP 06338289; hereinafter "Ito"). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yamada, Yasuhara, Ito and Noma et al. (U.S. 4,281,238; hereafter "Noma"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the reason presented below.

I. Rejections of 1, 3-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Yasuhara and further in view of Ito. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection and, therefore, respectfully traverse same.

The Office Action dated March 24, 2004 acknowledged that Yamada and Yasuhara do not disclose the insulator adhered to the sealing portion of one of the stems providing the insulation between the conducting or lead wires (page 4, lines 1-3 in the Office Action).

Ito discloses an insulator 30 arranged between the inner lead wires 3 and adhered on the sealing portion of the flared stem 2 as shown in Fig. 4. Also, as the Office Action indicated in page 4, lines 6-7, Ito further notes that this insulating body prevents the short circuit between the inner lead wires by scattering of the filament matter. However, Ito does not disclose an insulator adhered, at a point which is outside of a light emitting tube 1, on a sealing portion. Furthermore, since the insulator 30 of Ito insures the inner lead wire 3 from scattering of filament matter from a filament 4 and the scattering of filament occurs only inside the light emitting tube 1, Ito teaches away from placing the insulator 30 to adhere, at a point which is outside of the light emitting tube 1, on the sealing portion of the flared stem 2 (please see Fig. 4).

Thus, the combination of Yamada, Yasuhara and Ito fails to teach or suggest the limitation “an insulator arranged between the conductive wires of at least one pair to provide insulation therebetween, and adhered on the sealing portion of at least one of the stems, at least at a point which is outside of the light-transmitting circular tube” recited in claim 1, and the limitation “an insulator, arranged between at least one pair of the conductive wires, limiting the movement of the conductive wires, and adhered on the sealing portion of at least one of the stems, at least at a point which is outside of the light-transmitting circular tube” recited in claim 9.

Claims 2-5 and 8 depend on claim 1 and recites further limitations. Thus, the rejection should respectfully be withdrawn, at least because the combination of Yamada, Yasuhara and Ito fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 1-5 and 8-9.

In the Office Action, claims 6 and 7 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yamada, Yasuhara, Ito and in further view of Noma. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection and, therefore, respectfully traverse same.

Noma discloses a tubular jacket heater where silicone rubber with a specific hardness is used. Noma does not discuss an insulator adhered, outside of a light emitting tube, on a sealing portion.

Thus, the combination of Yamada, Yasuhara, Ito and Noma fails to teach or suggest the limitation “an insulator arranged between the conductive wires of at least one pair to provide insulation therebetween, and adhered on the sealing portion of at least one of the stems, at least at a point which is outside of the light-transmitting circular tube” recited in claim 1, and the limitation “an insulator, arranged between at least one pair of the conductive wires, limiting the movement of the conductive wires, and adhered on the sealing portion of at least one of the stems, at least at a point which is outside of the light-transmitting circular tube” recited in claim 9.

Claims 6 and 7 depend on claim 1 and recite further limitations. Thus, the rejection should respectfully be withdrawn, at least because the combination of Yamada, Yasuhara, Ito and Noma fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 6 and 7.

II. Claim Objections

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 9 are objected to because of the alleged informality. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to address the objection. Thus, the objection should respectfully be withdrawn.

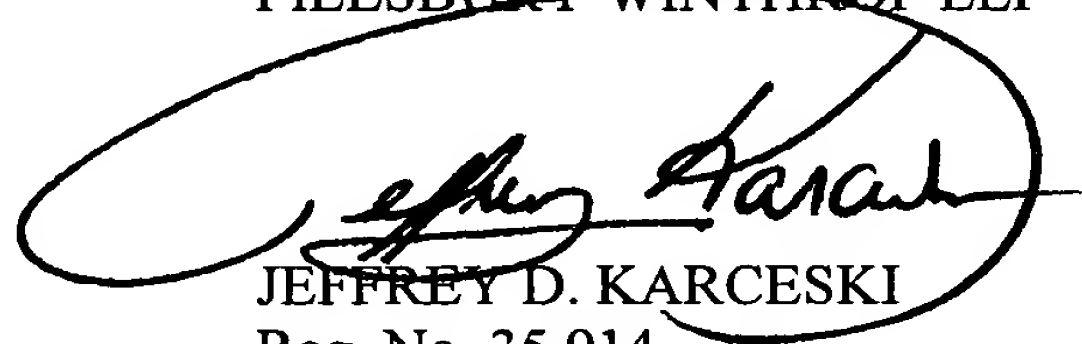
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and objection of the claims, withdraw the rejections and objection, and pass this application quickly to issue.

If there are any fees due for entry of this submission that are not otherwise accounted for, the Applicant asks that any such fees be charged to our Deposit Account No. 03-3975, with reference to Order No. 070323/0275314.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Karceski", is written over a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature is fluid and cursive.

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